

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162583 TOSEC 060059

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FOL REPEAT OF JIDDA 4956 TO SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT
CAIRO DAMASCUS DHAHRAN DOHA KUWAIT LONDON PARIS SANA TEHRAN
JUL 10

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4956

LIMDIS

FROM THE CHARGE'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: CROWM PRINCE FAHD'S TRIP TO PARIS

REF: A) JIDDA 4337 (ALL NOTAL); B) JIDDA 4758; C) JIDDA 4419;
D) JIDDA 4420; E) JIDDA 4553; F) PARIS 177229

1. ON JULY 21 CROWN PRINCE FAHD WILL TRAVEL TO FRANCE
FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT. THIS VISIT COULD BE "NORMAL" IN
THE CONTEXT OF THE LONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH
THE TWO COUNTRIES ENJOY AND HAVE NO PARTICULARLY RE-
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MARKABLE RESULTS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE THE FIRST STEP IN

SAUDI ARABIA'S EXERCISING OF ITS "EUROPEAN OPTION" AND MARK A CONSCIOUS TURNING AWAY FROM THE US IN BOTH THE MILITARY SUPPLY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREAS. (WE ALSO HAVE NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SAUDIS ARE CONSIDERING ASKING THE FRENCH TO TAKE OVER PORTIONS OF THEIR AIR FORCE DEVELOPMENT, NOW BEING DONE BY NORTHROP. TOTALLING CLOSE TO 800 MILLION DOLLARS.)

2. ON JUNE 15 AMBASSADOR HAD A LONG AND TOUGH MEETING WITH PRINCE FAHD DURING WHICH FAHD ASKED SEARCHING QUESTIONS ABOUT US WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO RESPOND TO SAUDI EQUIREMENTS AND CONTINUE TO DEVELOP OUR CLOSE HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIP (REF A). AT THAT TIME HE ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF FAR-REACHING DEMANDS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ON JUNE 30 FAHD ASKED ME WHETHER I HAD RECEIVED ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THE JUNE 15 MEETING. I TOLD HIM "NOT YET." HE IS NOT LIKELY TO ASK AGAIN.

3. IT IS ADVISABLE AND IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO INFORM FAHD OF OUR REACTION TO HIS JUNE 15 PRESENTATION IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR PARIS.

4. COMMENT: CHIEF US MILITARY TRAINING MISSION GENERAL AHMANN, WE UNDERSTAND. WILL RETURN FROM THE US ON FRIDAY JULY 11 ACCOMPANIED BY A NORTHROP TEAM FOR TALKS WITH MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN. THE PRESENTATION THAT FAHD (TOGETHER WITH SULTAN) MADE TO THE AMBASSADOR HOWEVER DEALT WITH POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS AS WELL AS WITH NUMEROUS PROBLEMS OF MILITARY SUPPLY. IT THUS HAD A POLITICAL CONTENT THAT SHOULD BE REPLIED TO BY THE EMBASSY SPEAKING FOR THE USG, NOT USMTM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A REPLY TO FAHD'S JUNE 15 QUESTIONS TO AMBASSADOR AKINS.
HORAN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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